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# REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE

Rural District of South Molton

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FOR THE YEAR 1968.



# Rural District of South Molton

Telephone No.  
South Molton 2117

Public Health Department  
8 East Street  
SOUTH MOLTON

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## Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

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E. WILLIAMS  
Medical Officer of Health  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

L. W. EVES  
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.  
Chief Public Health Inspector

# Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
South Molton Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the  
Health and Sanitary Administration of the Rural District of  
South Molton, for the year 1968.

Your obedient Servant,

E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

## STAFF

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of:—

### **Part-time Officers—**

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

L. W. EVES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.,  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

D. J. BYRON, M.A.P.H.I.,

J. M. W. RANDS, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,  
Additional Public Health Inspectors.

## GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	117,432
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate)						11,310
Extracts from Vital Statistics:—						
Births: Comparability Factor	...	...	...	...	...	1.19
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	0.78

## VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:—						
Number	...	...	...	...	...	161
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	14.2
Rate per 1,000 population, adjusted by Comp. Factor	...	...	...	...	...	19.2
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births						5.5%
Still Births:—						
Number	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	18
Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	164
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Infant Mortality Rates:—						
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births						6
Legit. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legit. Live Births						6.5
Illegit. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegit. Live Births						0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	...	...	...	...	...	6
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	...	...	...	...	...	6
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births)	...	...	...	...	...	24
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion):—						
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	0
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	158
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	14
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp. Factor	...	...	...	...	...	10.9

## POPULATION FIGURES SINCE 1950

	Population	Live Births	Deaths
1950	9038	161	100
1951	9207	124	117
1952	9141	137	108
1953	9063	133	94



	Population	Live Births	Deaths
1954	9050	116	89
1955	9030	115	95
1956	8920	118	104
1957	8850	141	84
1958	8840	125	95
1959	8800	116	113
1960	8780	114	111
1961	8220	126	98
1962	8400	135	93
1963	8410	116	93
1964	8430	124	94
1965	8430	132	100
1966	8410	129	92
1967	11350	162	162
1968	11310	161	158

## BIRTHS

During the year there were 161 live births in the Rural Area as compared with 162 in 1967. There were 71 males and 90 female births.

### Live Births

			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	69	83	152
Illegitimate	...	...	2	7	9
Total ...					161

### Still Births

			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	2	1	3
Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0
Total ...					3

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births 18

## DEATHS

During the year there were 158 deaths, of which 84 were males and 74 females.

The following table gives the Causes of Death:—

			M.	F.	Total
Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	...	...	1	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	...	...	1	2	3
" " —Lung, Bronchus	...	...	3	1	4
" " —Breast	...	...	0	1	1

Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc. ...	...	11	7	18
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms ...	...	0	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus ...	...	1	0	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc. ...	...	1	2	3
Hypertensive Disease ...	...	4	5	9
Ischaemic Heart Disease ...	...	24	8	32
Other Forms of Heart Disease ...	...	8	13	21
Cerebrovascular Disease ...	...	8	14	22
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	...	1	1	2
Pneumonia ...	...	4	5	9
Bronchitis and Emphysema ...	...	6	0	6
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	...	0	1	1
Peptic Ulcer ...	...	2	0	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System ...	...	3	2	5
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	...	2	0	2
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System ...	...	2	2	4
Congenital Anomalies ...	...	0	1	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. ...	...	0	1	1
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions ...	...	0	4	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	...	1	2	3
All Other Accidents ...	...	0	1	1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries ...	...	1	0	1
		84	74	158

#### Deaths in age groups:—

Under 4 weeks ...	1	35 — 44 years ...	1
4 weeks—1 year ...	0	45 — 54 " ...	8
1 — 4 years ...	0	55 — 64 " ...	25
5 — 14 " ...	2	65 — 74 " ...	38
15 — 24 " ...	0	75 + " ...	83
25 — 34 " ...	0		

#### Infant Mortality Rate

During the year 1 infant died under the age of 1 year, giving an Infant Mortality rate of .6.

#### Maternal Mortality

No deaths were attributable to childbirth during the year.

#### Cancer Deaths

There were 26 deaths due to Cancer during the year as compared with 30 for the previous year. There were 4 deaths due to lung cancer.

	M.	F.	Total
Stomach Cancer ... ..	1	2	3
Lung and Bronchus Cancer	3	1	4
Breast ... ..	0	1	1
Uterus ... ..	0	0	0
Other Cancers ... ..	11	7	18

## **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT (SECTION 47)**

No cases were dealt with under this Act during the year.

## **BRUCELLOSIS**

Two milk samples taken during the year were found to be positive for B. Abortus organisms. One of the milk samples was supplied by a producer retailer. The farmers concerned were informed of the presence of infection in their herds and the infected animals were identified and disposed of.

No instances of undulant fever occurring in the Rural District were brought to my knowledge during the year.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

During the year 10 infectious disease notifications were received of which 4 were measles, 5 whooping cough and 1 acute primary pneumonia.

There were no notifications for Tuberculosis.

No instances of food poisoning were reported.

## **SALMONELLA INFECTION**

During the year seven farm outbreaks of Salmonella infection amongst cows and calves were received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Exeter. In each instance the farmer concerned was advised regarding the spread of infection to humans.



# GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

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## Tuberculosis

The Mass X-ray Unit visits Tuly Street, Barnstaple, on alternate **Wednesday evenings** and its service is available to the general public.

## General Hospital Facilities

The South Molton and District Cottage Hospital, situated in South Molton, serves the town and the surrounding district.

The North Devon Infirmary at Barnstaple also serves the area, and provides Specialists' services.

## Infectious Diseases

Cases are sent either to Whipton Hospital, near Exeter, or to the Kingsley Hospital, Bideford. There are 18 beds available for treatment of infectious diseases.

## Smallpox

All Smallpox cases will be sent to Liskeard Smallpox Hospital. Plymouth Ambulance Service will provide transport: telephone No. Plymouth 64101.

## Chest Clinics

These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple. Below is a table giving the days and times of attendance.

Tuesday	9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2 p.m.-4 p.m.	} Clinic and X-Ray
Thursday	9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2 p.m.-4 p.m.	
Friday	9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2 p.m.-4 p.m.	} A.P. Refills

## V.D. Clinics

These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple. Times and days are as below for the sessions:—

Females:	Monday 4.45 p.m.	Thursday 4.45 p.m.
Males:	Monday 5.45 p.m.	Thursday 5.45 p.m.

## **Professional Nursing in the Homes**

There are 2 District Nurse/Midwives in the area.

## **Laboratory Facilities**

The main Laboratory is situated at Church Lane, Heavitree, Exeter. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of water and milk are also carried out there. The service is extremely valuable, and is widely used by the medical practitioners.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75 Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon area. There is a Blood Bank at this Laboratory.

## **General Practitioner Clinic**

The Devon County Council Health Centre at East Street was opened during the year. The following sessions are held at the Centre:

Ante Natal Clinic	Wednesday	By Appointment
Child Health	Thursday	2.00 p.m.- 4.30 p.m.
Chiropody	Monday	9.30 a.m.- 12.30 p.m.
		3rd, 4th and 5th Wed.
Opthalmic		By Appointment
Speech Therapy		All Day alt.n. Fridays
Dental		2nd and 4th Thurs.

## **Ambulance Services**

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. Under the scheme, an ambulance station has been established at South Molton. The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available on application to the Hospital, by the doctor concerned, and the ambulance service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when an ambulance is not necessary.

### **Junior Training Centre—Abbeyfield, Barnstaple.**

This centre provides training facilities for mentally handicapped children between the ages of 5 and 16. Hostel accommodation is also provided for children who may live some distance away from the centre.

### **Adult Training Centre**

A new adult training centre for the North Devon area was opened in 1966 for the training of handicapped adults. This centre also has hostel accommodation.

I wish to thank the Clerk and the Public Health Inspector for the help they have given me during the year.

E. WILLIAMS

Medical Officer of Health

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
AND SURVEYOR TO THE SOUTH MOLTON RURAL AREA**  
**For the Year ended 31st December, 1968**

8 East Street,  
South Molton.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report relating to work carried out during 1968.

During the year 4091 visits and inspections were made including:—

**Public Health—**

Building Regulations ... ..	632
Caravans and Camping Sites ... ..	24
Disinfections and Disinfestations ... ..	—
Drains Inspected and Tested ... ..	207
General ... ..	55
Infectious Disease ... ..	—
Nuisances ... ..	44
Refuse Collection and Disposal ... ..	37
Sewers and Sewage Disposal ... ..	206
Water Supplies ... ..	107
Water Samples ... ..	40

**Town and Country Planning Acts** ... .. 143

**Food and Drugs—**General ... .. 37  
Meat and Food Inspection  
(excluding poultry) 739

**Factories—**With Power ... .. 15  
Without Power ... .. 7

**Housing—**Slum Clearance, Housing Acts, Rent  
Act ... .. 92

Council Houses in Course of Erection,  
Housing Sites and Council House  
Supervision, etc. ... .. 704

Improvement Grants ... .. 157

**Petroleum Regulations** ... .. 41

**Interviews—**Owners, Builders, etc. ... .. 377

**Public Conveniences** ... .. 54

**Waste Foods** ... .. 12

**Miscellaneous** ... .. 209

**Offices, Shops and Railway Premises** ... .. 81

**Swimming Baths** ... .. 71

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4091

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## WATER

	No. of Houses supplied from Public Mains	Estimated Population so served	No. of Houses supplied by Standpipe on Public Mains	Estimated Population so served
Anstey East ...	28	75	—	—
Anstey West ...	22	60	—	—
Bishopsnympton ...	161	378	1	2
Buckland East ...	15	29	—	—
Buckland West ...	58	168	—	—
Burrington ...	63	200	—	—
Charles (Brayford)	39	119	—	—
Chittlehamholt ...	54	161	—	—
Chittlehampton ...	179	658	—	—
Cheldon ...	1	4	—	—
Chulmleigh ...	344	898	2	8
Creacombe ...	2	3	—	—
Filleigh ...	53	175	—	—
Georgenympton ...	38	118	—	—
Kingsnympton ...	82	223	1	3
Knowstone ...	30	86	—	—
Mariansleigh ...	56	135	—	—
Meshaw ...	31	79	—	—
Molland ...	3	3	—	—
North Molton ...	237	701	1	3
Queensnympton ...	4	14	—	—
Rackenford ...	60	170	—	—
Romansleigh ...	22	73	—	—
Rose Ash ...	55	146	—	—
Satterleigh and Warkleigh ...	20	51	—	—
South Molton ...	1120	2884	—	—
Witheridge ...	244	686	4	13
Worlington East ...	68	240	—	—

49 Samples of Private Supplies were taken with the results as shown:—

	Chemical	Bacteriological
Satisfactory ...	—	20
Unsatisfactory ...	—	29

Two Bacteriological Samples of Public Supplies were taken and reported as satisfactory.

Where the private Water Supplies were found to be unsatisfactory informal action was taken to have the matters remedied or an alternative source found, in many cases, in conjunction with the Drainage and Water Supplies Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

## **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE**

Meshaw sewerage scheme was completed during the early part of the year.

Romansleigh sewerage scheme, submitted to the Ministry for approval, was deferred owing to Financial restriction.

Burrington sewerage scheme was amended to meet the requirements of the River Board for submission to the Ministry.

Further investigations were in progress by the Consulting Engineers for Witheridge, Brayford and Alswear sewerage schemes.

All the disposal works continued to be maintained by direct labour.

Minor extensions and relaying of sewers were carried out including a collapsed section of sewer at New Road, South Molton.

## **HOUSING**

During the year 57 houses were improved under the Standard Grant Scheme, 14 of which were Council houses, and 2 under the Discretionary Grant Scheme. 8 Council houses were erected during the year and 14 were under construction. Tenders were accepted at the end of the year for a further 54 Council houses. 22 private houses were erected during the year.

## **FOOD AND DRUGS**

(a) The number of food premises in this area, by type of business is:—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	9
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	12
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	5
Confectioners	...	..	...	...	9
Fish and Chip Shops	...	...	...	...	4
Fishmongers	...	...	..	...	1
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	4
Grocers and Provision Dealers	...	...	...	...	49
Guest Houses	...	..	...	...	8
Public Houses, Hotels	...	...	...	...	36
Dairies	...	...	...	...	5

(b) Twenty premises are registered for the manufacture or preparation of preserved food.

Fifty-three premises are registered for the sale and storage of ice-cream.

Five premises are registered as dairies.

(c) All condemned food is disposed of at the Council's refuse tip under supervision.

(d) Food Hygiene Regulations 1960

Thirty-seven visits of inspection were made to food premises. Improvements and compliance with the regulations were secured.

### **SLAUGHTERHOUSES**

The four licensed slaughterhouses continued in regular use during the year, all of them being satisfactorily maintained. All meat killed was inspected and it was necessary to condemn 4 cwt. 2 qrs. 5 lbs. of carcase meat and 4 cwt. 2 qrs. 1 lb. of offal.

### **POULTRY PROCESSING PREMISES**

Visits were made as necessary to the two poultry processing premises where some 500,000 hens are slaughtered. It was necessary to reject 2,930 birds (8490 lbs.) 3 tons 15 cwt. 3 qrs. and 4 lbs.

### **COMMON LODGING HOUSES**

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

### **DAIRIES**

The dairies within the district were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

### **FACTORIES ACTS 1961**

Three cases of insufficient or unsuitable sanitary conveniences were remedied, following informal action by the department.

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Public Health  
Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections	Number of Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	45	10	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	12	1	—
TOTAL	59	22	3	—

2—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Section 1—4 Nil

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2	—	2	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	3	—	3	—



PART VIII OF THE ACT  
(Outwork)  
(Sections 133 and 134)

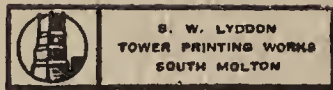
Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served	Pros- ecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)

Wearing) Making						
Apparel) etc	4	---	---	---	---	---
TOTAL	4	---	---	---	---	---

## CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	600	8	1822	1598	Nil
Number Inspected	600	8	1822	1598	Nil
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	2	2	1	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	56	Nil	61	67	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	9.33	Nil	3.3	4.2	Nil
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	14	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tubercu- losis	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.8	Nil
<b>Cysticercosis</b>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil





S. W. LYDDON  
TOWER PRINTING WORKS  
SOUTH MOLTON